

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, SCUL, PINT, GT

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
IN GUATEMALA

REFERENCE: GUATEMALA 1908

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SPOKE WITH DON KING OF DON KING
PRODUCTIONS, INC., WHOM WE UNDERSTAND IS ONE OF THE
PRINCIPAL PROMOTERS FOR MUHAMMAD ALI. KING STATED THAT
HE IS AWARE OF JACKSON AND BURKE'S PROMOTION ACTIVITIES
IN GUATEMALA. THEY ARE ACTING ON HIS ACCOUNT BUT
ACCORDING TO KING ARE AUTHORIZED ONLY TO MAKE PRELIMINARY
CONTACT WITH GOG AUTHORITIES AND NOT TO NEGOTIATE A
BINDING CONTRACT. KING STATES THAT HE VERY MUCH WANTS
TO STAGE A MUHAMMAD ALI TITLE FIGHT IN GUATEMALA THIS
SUMMER (PERHAPS JUNE OR JULY) BUT CANNOT YET OFFER A FIRM
DATE. WHEN ASKED WHAT TYPE OF GUARANTEE THE GOG WOULD
HAVE TO PUT UP, KING REPLIED QUOTE ABOUT DOLS 1.6
MILLION PLUS ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MUHAMMAD ALI AND HIS
ENTOURAGE UNQUOTE. KING STATED THAT THE ACTUAL CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HANDLED DIRECTLY WITH HIM. KING
PRODUCTIONS, INCORPORATED'S ADDRESS IS 30 ROCKEFELLER

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PLAZE, SUITE 6700, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, PHONE (OFFICE)

212-765-6590, (HOME) 212-758-4285.

2. FYI: ALI FIGHT SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30 IN COSTA RICA
HAS BEEN MOVED TO WASHINGTON, D.C. KING STATED THAT

REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT COSTA RICA WAS SLOW IN COMING
UP WITH THE GUARANTEE MONEY.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SPOKE WITH CHIEF BOXING WRITER
FOR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE ABOUT FIGHT IN
PHILIPPINES, MALAYASIA, ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO THAT
SOURCE, QUOTE PHILIPPINES DID WELL, KUALA LUMPUR
BROKE EVEN, AND ZAIRE LOST ABOUT DOLS 14 MILLION UNQUOTE.
END FYI. INGERSOLL

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